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STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3661st meeting of the Security Council, held on 6 May 1996 in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Liberia", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council expresses once again its grave concern at the deteriorating situation in Liberia. The Council strongly deplores the wanton killing and atrocities committed against innocent civilians by the forces of the warring factions. The escalating violence among the factions in violation of the Abuja Agreement puts the peace process at grave risk.

"The Security Council calls upon the parties immediately to cease fighting, to observe the cease-fire and to return Monrovia to a safe haven under the protection of the Military Observer Group of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOMOG). It expresses its support for the efforts of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), including the role of ECOMOG, to bring this conflict to an end.

"The Security Council regrets that the deterioration of the situation in Liberia has forced the evacuation of significant numbers of personnel of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia. The Council reminds all States of their obligation to comply with the embargo on all deliveries of weapons and military equipment to Liberia imposed by resolution 788 (1992).

"The Security Council stresses the importance it attaches to the ECOWAS Summit meeting to be held in Accra on 8 May 1996 and urges the leaders of the Liberian factions to reaffirm by concrete positive actions their commitment to the Abuja Agreement."

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